

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**\$2.5 million grant will assist more than 460 laid-off workers
in the Central Valley to re-enter the workforce**

SACRAMENTO – A \$2.5 million grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) will help 463 laid-off workers in six hard-hit counties re-enter the California workforce. The grant was awarded to the Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet, which will lead this project on behalf of the Central California Workforce Collaborative.

“During the past year, the Central Valley has experienced a number of business closures and layoffs, severely depressing local economies and spiking the unemployment rate to 14.6 percent,” said EDD Director Pam Harris. “This grant will instill a ray of hope in this region by giving the local communities the tools necessary to retrain unemployed workers for skilled jobs in booming industries.”

Laid-off workers in the following counties will receive re-training and assistance services: Stanislaus, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Inyo and Mono counties.

The grant will provide these laid-off workers with a variety of job services, including career counseling, skills preparation services, and job search assistance. By partnering with community colleges, public institutions of higher education, and other local training providers, participants will gain the skills needed to transition into high-wage and high-skill jobs in growing industries, such as agribusiness (food processing, agricultural technology and biotechnology), health care, and renewable energy.

Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact Jeffery Rowe with the Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet at (209) 558-2100.

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